

CLAIM LISTING

1 - 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method including:

- (a) adding an ammonium hydroxide solution to an initial comminuted meat product
~~placing an initial comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia to produce~~
an intermediate meat product; and
- (b) applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product includes forcing the intermediate meat product through a conduit.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product includes applying a primary mechanical action by agitating the intermediate meat product in a vessel.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further including the step of applying a vacuum to the intermediate meat product in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is applied.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of applying mechanical
2 action to the intermediate meat product includes applying a secondary mechanical action
3 to the intermediate meat product by forcing the intermediate meat product through a
4 conduit.

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6 22 (Canceled)

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8 23. (Currently Amended) A method including:

- 9 (a) adding an ammonium hydroxide solution to a comminuted meat product placing a
10 comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia; and
11 (b) forcing the comminuted meat product through a conduit after adding the
12 ammonium hydroxide solution to the comminuted meat product placing the
13 comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia.

14
15 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further including applying a primary
16 mechanical action to the comminuted meat product after placing the comminuted meat
17 product in contact with ammonia, the primary mechanical action being applied by
18 agitating the comminuted meat product in a vessel.

19
20 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further including the step of applying a
21 vacuum to the comminuted meat product in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is
22 applied.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further including applying a secondary
2 mechanical action to the comminuted meat product by forcing the comminuted meat
3 product through an additional conduit after applying the primary mechanical action.
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5 27 (Canceled)
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7 28. (Currently Amended) A method including:

8 (a) adding an ammonium hydroxide solution to a ground meat placing ground meat in
9 contact with ammonia; and

10 (b) applying mechanical action to the ground meat after adding the ammonium
11 hydroxide solution placing the ground meat in contact with ammonia.
12

13 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of applying mechanical
14 action to the ground meat includes forcing the ground meat through a conduit.
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16 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of applying mechanical
17 action to the ground meat includes applying a primary mechanical action by agitating the
18 ground meat in a vessel.
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20 31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 further including the step of applying a
21 vacuum to the ground meat in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is applied.
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1 32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of applying mechanical
2 action to the ground meat includes applying a secondary mechanical action to the ground
3 meat by forcing the ground meat through a conduit after adding the ammonium hydroxide
4 solution to the ground meat ~~placing the ground meat in contact with ammonia.~~

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6 33 - 37 (Canceled)